Draws us a profit from all things
we see : And often, to our
comfort, shall we find The
sharded beetle[9] in a safer hold
Than is the full-wing'd eagle.
O, this life Is nobler, than
attending for a check [1]; Richer,
than doing nothing for a babe[&];

not merely confined to services In war, I have no doubt but we should read:

" *That* service is not service," &c. M. MASON. " *This* service " means, 'any particular service.' The observation relates to the court, as well as to war. M ALONE.

9 The SHARDED beetle—] i. e. the beetle whose wings are enclosed within two dry *husks* or *shards. So,* in Gower, De Con-fessione Amantis, lib. v. fol. 103, b,:

" That with his swerd, and with his sphere,
"He might not the serpent dere :
[tf] He was so *sherded* all aboute,
" It held all edge toole without e." Gower

is here speaking of the dragon subdued by Jason.

STEEVENS.

See voL xi. p. 155, n. 8. Cole, in his Latin Diet. 1679, has— " A *shard or* crust—Crusta /" which in the Latin part he interprets—" a crust or shell, a *rough casing* ; shards." " The cases (says Goldsmith) which beetles have to their wings, are the more necessary, as they often live *under the surface of the earth,, in holes,* which they dig out by their own industry." These are undoubtedly the *safe holds* to which Shakspeare alludes. MALONE,

The epithet *full-wing d* applied to the eagle, sufficiently marks the contrast of the poet's imagery; for whilst the bird can soar towards the sun beyond the reach of the human eye, the insect can but just rise above the surface of the earth,, and that at the close of day. HENLEY.

[1] —attending for a CHECK ;] *Check* may mean, in this place,
a *reproof;* but I rather think it signifies *command, controuL*
Thus, in Troilus and Cressida, the restrictions of Aristotle are
called Aristotle's *checks.* STEEVENS.

[2] — than doing nothing for a BABE ;] [Dr. Warburton reads
—bauble!] i. e. vain titles of honour gained by an idle attend
ance at court. But the Oxford editor reads—for a *bribe.*

WARBUKTON.

The Oxford editor knew the reason of this alteration, though his censurer knew it not.

Of *babe* some correcter made *baubles* and Sir Thomas Hanmer thought himself equally authorised to make *bribe. I* think *babe* can hardly be right. It should be remembered, however, that